

App. No.: 09/890,055  
Art Unit: 1723

### **REMARKS**

Applicants have received and reviewed an Office Action dated January 18, 2006 for the above-referenced application.

Claims 8 and 16 have been amended to recite "flap system", as supported at least by the PCT published Abstract. It is respectfully pointed out that the present application is a National Stage of PCT/CH00/00076, filed February 10, 2000. Additionally, the published Abstract for PCT/CH00/00076 was submitted to the Patent Office on July 25, 2001, with the filing of this National Stage application. Applicants hereby enclose another copy of the PCT/CH00/00076 published Abstract for the Examiners reference. No new matter has been added. Claims 8-13 and 16-21 are pending.

The abstract has been amended editorially. No new matter has been added.

Applicants also appreciate the withdrawal of the previous art rejection.

For the reasons given below, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

#### **Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph:**

The Examiner rejected claims 8-13 and 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action states the original disclosure does not support the recitation of the "flap" valve system connecting the drying and cooling unit to the second batch mixer. The Office Action further states, the sentence bridging pages 3 and 4 of the original specification recites the dryer/cooler (8) is connected by another valve system (11) to the batch mixer (12), and therefore, the specification does not disclose that this valve system is a "flap" valve system. Applicants respectfully disagree with the above assertions for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully point to the Examiners attention to the published Abstract for PCT/CH00/00076, which was submitted with the filing of the present National Stage application.

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Applicants refer the Examiner to line 6 of the original Abstract, which recites an additional flap system (11). Therefore, Applicants argue "flap system" is fully supported at least by the originally filed Abstract of the present application and that the pending claims contain subject matter supported and described in the originally filed application.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants have complied with the written description requirement. Moreover, the claims contain subject matter that was described in the specification as originally filed. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

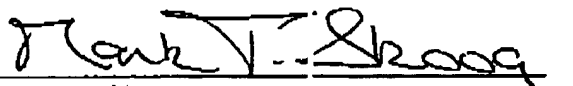
**Summary:**

In summary, Applicants submit that each of claims 8-13 and 16-21 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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**PCT**  
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 INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG VERÖFFENTLICHT NACH DEM VERTRAG ÜBER DIE  
 INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES PATENTWESENS (PCT)



<b>(51) Internationale Patentklassifikation 7:</b> A23N 17/00, A23K 3/03, 3/00	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) Internationale Veröffentlichungsnummer:</b> WO 00/60958  <b>(43) Internationales Veröffentlichungsdatum:</b> 19. Oktober 2000 (19.10.00)
<b>(21) Internationales Aktenzeichen:</b> PCT/CH00/00076 <b>(22) Internationales Anmeldedatum:</b> 10. Februar 2000 (10.02.00)  <b>(30) Prioritätsdaten:</b> 199 15 908.3      8. April 1999 (08.04.99)      DE  <b>(71) Anmelder (für alle Bestimmungsstaaten ausser US):</b> BÜHLER AG [CH/CH]; Patentabteilung, CH-9240 Uzwil (CH).  <b>(72) Erfinder; und</b> <b>(75) Erfinder/Anmelder (nur für US):</b> WUEST, Urs [CH/CH]; Holengartenstrasse 3 g, CH-9302 Kronbühl (CH). WETZEL, Willi [CH/CH]; Sägastrasse 7, CH-9244 Niederuzwil (CH).  <b>(74) Gemeinsamer Vertreter:</b> BÜHLER AG; Patentabteilung, CH-9240 Uzwil (CH).	<b>(81) Bestimmungsstaaten:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO Patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), eurasisches Patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), europäisches Patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI Patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Veröffentlicht</b> <i>Mit internationalem Recherchenbericht.</i>	

**(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR THERMALLY TREATING FLOUR FOR HYGIENIC PURPOSES**

**(54) Bezeichnung: VERFAHREN UND VORRICHTUNG ZUR HYGIENISIERENDEN, THERMISCHEN BEHANDLUNG VON MEHL**

**(57) Abstract**

The invention relates to a method and a device for thermally treating flour, especially middlings, for hygienic purposes. The device consists of modules which are a first, heatable batch mixer (4) with a pre-mounted depot (1). Said batch mixer is connected to a drier/cooler (8) via a lock-like flap system (3). A second batch mixer (12) comprising a device (14) for adding additives and a discharge device is mounted behind an additional flap system (11) that is mounted behind the drier/cooler (8).

**(57) Zusammenfassung**

Die Erfindung betrifft ein Verfahren und eine Vorrichtung zur hygienisierenden, thermischen Behandlung von Mehl, insbesondere von Futtermehl. Die Vorrichtung besteht modular aus einem ersten, beheizbaren Batchmischer (4) mit einem vorgelagerten Depot (1), der über ein schleusenartiges Klappensystem (3) mit einem Trockner/Kühler (8) verbunden ist, wobei diesem nach einem weiteren Klappensystem (11) ein zweiter Batchmischer (12) mit einer Einrichtung (14) zur Zudosierung von Zusatzstoffen sowie einer Austragsanordnung nachgeordnet ist.

